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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 204
By Miller J

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Coach Ray Grant and the 1996-1997 Cleveland High School boys' basketball team on winning the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association Class AAA State Tournament.

WHEREAS, the Tennessee General Assembly is very proud of our high school basketball teams who practice hard, overcome adversity, play adroitly and win championships; and

WHEREAS, before thousands of screaming fans, the great 1996-1997 Cleveland High School boys' basketball team won the prestigious Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association Class AAA State Tournament; and

WHEREAS, Cleveland showed early signs of greatness when they won the regular season District 5-AAA championship, with an unblemished 10-0 record; and

WHEREAS, the Blue Raiders next won the District 5-AAA Tournament impressively beating Soddy-Daisy 94-68, Rhea County 93-74, Cumberland County 88-51 and East Ridge 83-53; and

WHEREAS, they then won the tough Region 3-AAA Tournament, their first region title, with victories against Cumberland County 88-54, East Ridge 83-53, Bradley Central 52-44 and Brainerd 79-77; and

WHEREAS, in the crucial substate match, they beat Lebanon 78-65; and

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WHEREAS, Cleveland won the coveted Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association Class AAA Championship, with exciting victories over Clarksville 73-68, Bartlett 56-53 and Brainerd 87-79; and

WHEREAS, making their first trip to the “Big Dance” since they reached the semifinal round in 1989, this was Cleveland’s first state basketball title; and

WHEREAS, they completed their first 30-win season with an excellent 33-2 record, an enviable winning percentage of .943; and

WHEREAS, highly regarded first-year Head Coach Ray Grant has done a superb job of carefully and expertly molding the natural talent of the team into championship caliber. He had previously been very successful as the Cleveland Junior High School coach. His able Assistant Coaches were Charlie Cogdill, Jim Case and Brad Flatford; and

WHEREAS, the members of this exceptionally talented squad were: seniors, Shaneta Brown, wing; Tim Bayne, wing; Terrell Cox, post; captain Del Baker, wing and Stepfon Woods, point; juniors, John Jenkins, wing; Logan Johnson, wing; and Russell Ware, wing; and State Tournament Most Valuable Player Vincent Yarbrough, post; sophomores, Joel Zimmerman, point; Gene Henley, post; and Randy Cooper, wing; and

WHEREAS, Cleveland was strongly supported by Principal Ken Willey, Athletic Director Larry Payne and Director of Schools Dr. Rick Denning; and

WHEREAS, the efficient managers were James Cogdill, Jamey Case, Abby Lamb and Sydney Schzier; and

WHEREAS, Cleveland was very fortunate to have incredible fan support, with the Blue Raider fans outnumbering the home crowd at road games; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we pause in our deliberations to reflect on the glorious year of accomplishment experienced by this notable team; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we honor and congratulate Coach Ray Grant and the 1996-1997

Cleveland High School boys' basketball team, Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association Class AAA state champions, and wish them well in their future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That appropriate copies of this resolution be prepared for presentation to the school and each person named above, with this final clause omitted from such copy.